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course remove or weaken the color ; but decoloration is gradual, so that one needs only to watch and apply the clove oil when the color has been reduced to the desired intensity. This process then, as has already been explained in the October number of this journal, p. 779, consists in *over-staining* and then *removing* the color to any desired degree. The process of decoloration is not entirely arrested by the application of clove oil, contrary to Blanc's assertion, hence it should be replaced by Canada balsam as early as possible. The same method is adapted to other microscopic animals.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— That measles is a disease of parasitic nature, has been held by Herr Tschamer, who found a small organism in the urine of persons having scarlatina, and the same in cases of measles and diphtheria. M. Le Bel, however, has lately found a vibron peculiar to measles ; it is a short, slightly curved rod, highly refringent, and very slow in movement. Its spores are held in a pouch of dead protoplasm, which gradually disappears. Usually these vibrions appear in the urine and during a few days at first ; they disappear when the fever comes. In one case another occurrence of spores was observed on the thirty-fifth day in an adult, and the vibron persisted. To have an idea of the intensity of the disease, it is well to examine the urine immediately after emission. Again, vibrions were found in the skin at the time of desquamation (scaling). M. Le Bel cultivated the organism in a mixture of urine and bouillon, and injected some of the liquid into a guinea-pig. The animal was not inconvenienced ; but on the tenth day thin vibrions were noticed in its urine ; they disappeared on the twelfth.

— Among the results obtained by the Prehistorical Commission of the Imp. Geological Institute of Vienna, in 1881, was the continued investigation of the Vypustek cave in Moravia, which brought to daylight a great number of interesting remains of mammals. The most remarkable among them is a nearly complete skeleton of a not yet full-grown diluvial "steinbock" (*Capra ibex* L.), exceeding considerably in size the actually living species. The Gutsch cave, also in Moravia, has been found to include bones of man, reindeer, Aurochs and cave-bear. A number of remains of cave-bear, and of small rodent mammals has been found in the Lettenmaier cave (Upper Austria) which, in prehistorical times, may have occasionally served as a hiding-place to human beings.

— Mr. Fr. Heger extended his researches to new-found burying-grounds near Hallein (Salsburg), a part of a ground, includ-

ing urns, near Reudorf (Bohemia), and to the partly uncovered old burying-hills near Winklarn (Infer. Austria). The investigations in Carniola, conducted by M. F. Schulf, proved eminently successful. Three tumuli have been opened, containing many sepulchral urns, iron and bronze objects and glass and yellow amber pearl. Director F. de Hochstetter himself conducted the diggings near Watsch. Eighty burial-places with as many urns, filled with ashes and burnt bones, and several others, containing skeletons were brought to daylight. Many well-preserved bronze fibulæ of different pattern, iron points of lances and celts have been found, together with a bronze helmet with double crest, quite like one from the burial ground near Hallstatt (Upper Austria). During the winter of 1881 to 1882, a shepherd dug out a kettle, made of laminated silver, adorned with figures, now in the Provincial Museum of Saibach (Carniola).—*Communicated by Dr. F. V. Hayden.*

— The city of Neuchatel on the 6th of December, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of its natural history society. M. Jules Marcou, in a letter to the *Nation*, recalls the fact that the society was founded under the leadership of Agassiz, then twenty-five years old, having returned from his studies in Paris, under Cuvier and Humboldt. The orator of the day, Prof. Louis Favre, in his historical sketch of the society, enumerated the scientific enterprises of the young Agassiz, particularly of his glacial theory, which he first suggested at Neuchatel in 1837, Agassiz then declaring "that there has been a time when glaciers covered the whole area of the Alps, and extended far beyond; that there had been in Europe a period of great cold, a 'Great Ice age,' when the mammoths lived." How he extended the theory to Northern Europe and the British Isles and to North America as the result of personal observation is a matter of common scientific history.

— The endowments at the French Academy by the government are thus described by the *Academy*. Each member of the Institut receives an official salary of 1500fr. When full, the Institut has 228 members, being sixty-eight for the Académie des Sciences, and forty for each of the other branches. The total grant, therefore, on this account would amount to nearly £14,000 a year. And there are not a few extra items. The members of the Académie Française receive a payment for attendance or "jeton de presence," which raises their salary to 5000fr. Five of their body charged with the secular compilation of the dictionary get an additional 1500fr.; those who are engaged upon a history of French literature get 2400 fr.; four members of the commission of medals get 800fr. each; and 5000fr. is allotted for a dictionary of fine arts.—*The Academy.*

— In a paper on the early votaries of science in Rhode Island, read by Dr. Parsons, before the Rhode Island Historical Society, he remarked "that Rhode Island furnished, from the pen of her founder, the earliest American contribution to philology; that she took part in suggesting the first great physical discovery made in these colonies—that of the relation of electricity to lightning; that she witnessed the first botanical garden, the first public lectures on anatomy and the first professorship of natural history in New England, and, finally, that one of her sons, whose medical education was begun upon her soil, and 'ripened in the skies of many lands,' was the first American to appreciate the value of vaccination, began its application by submitting his own son to the repulsive experiment, and succeeded in establishing it, through doubt and obloquy, in public and lasting confidence."

— The citizens of Montreal, says the *Popular Science Monthly*, have begun their preparations to receive the British Association in 1884, by sending out circulars to inform their invited visitors that the city can take care of them, and that they will find their visit a pleasant one. Among the inducements held forth are easy excursions to Quebec and Ottawa and longer and pleasant ones to Toronto, Niagara Falls, Boston, New York and New Haven, or whatever Eastern city the American Association may meet in. The government of the Dominion is expected to make liberal grants of money to defray the expenses of British members, the railroads and steamboats will provide excursions to the great lakes and Chicago, and to the provinces of the north-west as far as the Rocky mountains; and the association is promised its usual revenue from the meeting.

— The subscription for the Darwin memorial has awakened so much enthusiasm in Sweden, says *Nature*, that 1400 persons, "from the bishop to the seamstress," have contributed sums "varying from five pounds to two pence." In Great Britain 600 persons have contributed to the fund, and many in Germany. The average intelligence of the people of Denmark, relating to scientific matters, is shown by the ample support, as the editors write us, which is given to the Danish Natural History Journal by a population numbering 1,784,741 souls. We wish as proportionately large a subscription list for the AMERICAN NATURALIST could be made up in a population of 50,000,000! Those who oppose State and town aid to higher schools little know what they are doing to reduce the average education of our people.

— New facts concerning rabies in various animals have been presented to the French Academy by M. Pasteur, with MM. Chamberland, Roux and Thiaillier. All forms of rabies, they claim, come from the same virus. Death, after inoculation with

rabid saliva, may be either from a microbe found in the saliva, from formation of much pus, or from rabies. The virus of rabies is found not only in the medulla oblongata, but in the brain and spinal cord. Animals sometimes recover after the first symptoms of rabies, never after the acute symptoms. The authors have now four dogs which cannot take rabies, however inoculated; whether this is from having had a mild form of it and recovered, or from being naturally refractory, they cannot at present say.

— The venous blood of a horse that recently died of rabies, at Dinan, was examined by M. Barille with a magnifying power of 1200 diameters and an immersion objective. It was found to contain an innumerable quantity of small organisms (vibrions and bacteria) endowed with motion. The corpuscles, especially the white ones, were profoundly altered; these (white) were much more numerous than usual. Further, there were a number of ovoid corpuscles, about two-thirds or three-fifths of the size of the blood corpuscles, with one to three budding appendices. Hallier has described this vegetal ferment of rabid blood, and he calls the fungus *Lyssophyton*. Lastly, the blood contained a great deal of hæmoglobin.

— The advantage of planting trees in streets and open spaces in towns has been the subject of correspondence in the local press of Geneva. Dr. Piachaud concludes that trees in streets do more harm than good, because they impede the circulation of air. Professor Goret, on the contrary, says that trees temper the heat and serve as a protection from dust, while the evaporation from their leaves helps to keep the air cool and moist. He also contends that by means of their roots they draw up stagnant waters and absorb much of the filth which would otherwise render the subsoil of streets a dangerous nidus for disease.

— While the sand-storm was raging in Kern county a few days since it was raining in Fresno county a hundred miles further north. The sand was carried by the Kern-county storm up into the upper stratum of air, when it was carried northward, and coming into the rain-storm of Fresno county, descended with the rain. The *Expositor* mentions the fact of a mud-storm, but cannot account for the real estate portion of the mixture.—*California paper, Feb. 10.*

— Three numbers of *Science* have been received. This is a weekly journal corresponding to the English *Nature*. It is published at Cambridge, Mass., by Moses King, and edited by S. H. Scudder. Short articles, book reviews and correspondence fill the first half of the number, while the second half is devoted to a weekly summary of progress in all departments of physical and natural science. Such a journal was needed, and will doubtless be well sustained.

— Another journal, of which we have received Nos. 1 and 2 under the same cover, is the Bulletin of the Buffalo Naturalists Field Club. The ornithological, botanical and especially Dr. Kellicott's notes on the early stages of certain caterpillars, are particularly good. Some of the articles have a pleasant literary flavor.

— Professor R. Owen, the veteran comparative anatomist, though seventy-nine years old, is still in good health and publishing important papers. Rumors of his ill health are contradicted, we are glad to see, by *Nature*.

— A most interesting paper by Commander J. R. Bartlett, U. S. N., assistant in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, on the Gulf stream, appears in the Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.

— A third issue is S. E. Cassino's *Scientific and Literary Gossip*, edited by J. S. Kingsley. It appears once a month and contains selected and critical articles.

— Professor P. A. Chadbourne, who died on the 16th of Feb., was lately president of Williams College, and at the time of his death president of Massachusetts Agricultural College. He was in earlier years a zealous and successful teacher of science. He gave moral and pecuniary aid to struggling students of science, and though he spent little time in original research, he aided younger men in their studies. He led the Williams College expedition to Labrador and Greenland in 1860, when considerable material new to science was collected and worked up by those attached to the expedition.

— We neglected to record the death last year of Professor Leith Adams, the author of a work on tertiary mammals of Malta, and of works of travel, one relating to New Brunswick, where he resided for a period. His chair of Natural History at Queen's College, Cork, has been filled recently by the appointment of M. M. Hartog.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, July 25.—Mr. Meehan stated that a *Broussonettia papyrifera* had recently fruited. Though the plant had been introduced a hundred years, only males had hitherto been known, so that a change from male to female had in this instance taken place.

Aug. 8.—The Rev. H. C. McCook described the raids of *Formica sanguinea* upon *F. fusca*—raids in which the black slaves assist their red masters. Reds and blacks shared the labor of raising the young. The nests of *F. fusca*, conspicuous in places